The evolving CLEP eCBT program...................

A recent event produced a flurry of inquiries regarding the status of the CLEP computer-based testing (CLEP eCBT) initiative. The announced withdrawal of nine CLEP Subject exams starting in January 2002 prompted many DANTES TCOs to inquire regarding the alternatives for accessing these tests in the future. One question common in all conversations was, "When will CLEP eCBT be operational at DANTES Test Centers?" What follows is a discussion of the status of the CLEP eCBT effort, our plans to pilot test the software, and an alternative for accessing CLEP eCBT.

Our first opportunity to evaluate a fully functional version of the CLEP eCBT software presented itself in July 2001. This coincided with the nationwide release of CLEP eCBT to national test centers located on college and university campuses.

During the next 2 months, the software was evaluated for compliance with DOD security requirements. Numerous security vulnerabilities were identified. In addition, the July 2001 software release did not contain DANTES functional requirements for administering and reporting DANTES-funded CLEP tests. Extensive technical and functional discussions with the College Board and Educational Testing Service (ETS) occurred over the next several months. As a result, a contractual request for the devel-

opment of a tailored DOD version of the CLEP eCBT software was negotiated to ensure CLEP eCBT would fulfill DOD Information Technology Security Certification and Accreditation Process (DITSCAP) requirements and DANTES testing specifications.

ETS is expected to complete development of the DOD version of CLEP eCBT in March 2002. If subsequent compliance testing proves successful, prototype and pilot testing could potentially begin as early as June 2002.

Software development delays have impacted our initial plans to simultaneously pilot test in Conus and overseas. To expedite deployment, pilot testing will initially be performed at Service-nominated test centers in Conus. Provided the pilot testing is

deemed a success, subsequent CLEP eCBT software deployment and end-user training will include overseas test centers and the remaining Conus sites in FY03. Determination of test center infrastructure compliance (i.e., sites that meet minimum CLEP eCBT hardware, software, and technical support requirements) and resulting site deployment schedules will be coordinated with each Service's technical representatives.

With the ensuing 1 October 2003 deadline for eliminating paper-based CLEP testing and the potential that not all Conus test centers may be technically capable of delivering CLEP eCBT, we are also pursuing making DANTES-funded testing available through national test centers. To date, more than 1,000 colleges and universities have agreed to provide computer-based CLEP testing. For an updated list, please visit **www.collegeboard.org/clep**. More information will be available once the contractual provisions and program policies are finalized authorizing DANTES-funded testing at national test centers.

During the relatively brief period since the introduction of CLEP eCBT at national test

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DANTES Distance Learning news

DANTES Catalog of Nationally Accredited Distance Learning Programs

Institute of Logistical Management is now VA approved for all courses and programs.

Harcourt Learning Direct has changed its name to **Education Direct**.

Tuition increase:

Course Number: 07
Course Title: High School
New Tuition: $755
New fees not covered by TA: $143
New Total Cost: $898

Course Number: 83
Course Title: Web Page Designer
New Tuition: $761
New fees not covered by TA: $238
New Total Cost: $999

American College of Computer & Information Sciences tuition increase:

Bachelor of Computer Science: **increased** to $115 per credit hour

Bachelor of Information Systems: **increased** to $115 per credit hour

Master of Computer Science: **increased** to $155 per credit hour

DANTES External Degree Catalog update

Walden University introduces 3 new management programs

The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association recently approved three new management programs at Walden University.

A Master of Business Administration, a Master of Public Administration, and a Doctorate in Public Policy and Administration will now be included in Walden's program offerings.

MBA program accelerates careers. Walden's online MBA program will feature 6-week courses to help professionals move quickly through the program. Specializations will include: finance, marketing, human resource management, global business, e-business, knowledge management, learning management, health services management, or management of technology.

"Our unique MBA program gives individuals advanced skills and credential and allows them to contribute directly to the success of business and institutions," says Dr. John Vinton, chair of the management division.

MPA geared toward non-profit professionals. Government and nonprofit organizations are changing and interacting more than ever before. With such demand on public administrators, Walden's MPA will emphasize community leadership and inter-organizational performance. The new MPA will focus on areas such as conflict resolution, economic development, and election administration.

Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration. Walden will introduce the first-ever online Doctorate in Public Policy and Administration in response to projections from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Bureau's report noted a significant increase in government employment, as well as the impending retirement of baby boomers in the public and nonprofit sectors.

"We believe the timing of this doctorate could not be better," says Dr. Vinton. "To have robust communities, leaders in public service must be grounded in scientific inquiry and scholarship. Additionally, they must have the vision to create plans, develop policies, and manage resources."

Dr. Vinton adds, "Executives today must be prepared for the challenges of working collaboratively and effectively across organizational government levels, sectors, and even national boundaries."

Real-world business executives teach all of Walden's management programs. To learn more about these or any of Walden's programs, phone toll-free (866) 4WALDEN, or visit **http://www.waldenu.edu**.

Distance Learning Program grows

The DANTES Distance Learning (DL) Program's staff has expanded to meet the growing tuition assistance (TA) program needs. The TA team processed over 25,000 enrollments in FY01, a 500 percent increase over FY00.

The TA team is led by Trish Stronko and is supported by contractor employees, Michael Buchanan, Nancy Hamilton, Joyce Jeffries, Anna Johnson, Kathy Nelson, and Myrtice O'Dell. Contact the DL staff at (850) 452-1085, DSN 922-1085, or by E-mail to *dstlearn@voled.doded.mil*.

Calendar

February

1   Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)

9   LSAT

March

9-13   Praxis*

April

5   Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)

7-12   GRE Subject*

15-19   CLEP General English Composition w/Essay*

20-24   Praxis*

May

7, 8, 9   ASE (Overseas)**

7, 9, 14   ASE**

Notes:

Overseas test centers send orders 6 weeks before the test date. Conus test centers send orders 4 weeks before the test date. Contractors ship tests to arrive just before the planned test date.

*Select only one test date from the published period for DANTES testing and specify that date on the order form.

**ASE test orders must reach ASE by 15 March for May administration.

http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/exam/01-02htm

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eCBT
FROM 1

centers, the College Board discovered that their initial system requirements could only support minimal testing. They realized that a system upgrade was required to achieve optimal performance and to allow for more workstations. The table on page 4 depicts the evolution of CLEP eCBT hardware requirements. Refer to the "Legend" for identifying the DANTES

The table on page 4 depicts the evolution of CLEP eCBT hardware requirements.

DOD recommendations based on our evaluation of the July 2001 CLEP eCBT software. College Board/ETS implementation of DOD security and DANTES functional requirements in the March 2002 CLEP eCBT software release could potentially expand the defined hardware requirements. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you consider purchasing hardware systems that can be upgraded.

Be assured our efforts are focused on ensuring that the CLEP eCBT software does not pose a security risk to DOD computers and networks and that all DANTES functional requirements are met prior to deployment DOD-wide. Certification and accreditation of CLEP eCBT software for deployment within DOD is a critical and mandatory step before installation on government computers is authorized.

Training — past and future

Calendar year 2001 was a busy one for the DANTES Training Department. Ten Test Control Officer (TCO), Regional, and DANTES Services Workshops were conducted with 489 attendees.

Presenters for these workshops included members of the DANTES staff, as well as representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs, American Council on Education, Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges, University of Arkansas, Windward Community College, University of Maryland University College, Army National Guard Institute, Navy College Office, Navy College Center, American College Testing, National Career Assessments, Consulting Psychologists Press, and the Distance Education and Training Council.

There are nine TCO, Regional, and DANTES Services Workshops scheduled for calendar year 2002. Planning is underway to make these workshops as successful as those conducted this past year.

Only one DANTES Services Workshop is planned for 2002. It will take place in Pensacola, Florida, 12-14 March. Lodging requests should be made **before 18 February** by calling the Clarion Resort Suites at (850) 932-4300 to guarantee the per diem lodging rate of $60 per day.

In this workshop, DANTES program managers and other speakers will provide in-depth training on DANTES programs and services. New counselors will find this workshop especially beneficial. In the last

Evolution of CLEP CBT hardware requirements

Legend

Color	Description
White	College Board/ETS Recommendations – June 1999
Brown	College Board/ETS Recommendations – July 2001
Blue	DANTES DOD Recommendations – November 2001

	Server Host PC with/without Administrator/ Test Workstations OR Stand-alone	Test Workstation or Administrator Workstation	
		Recommended	Minimum
Central Processing Unit (CPU)	Pentium II 350 Mhz	Pentium II 266 Mhz	Pentium 233 Mhz
	Pentium III 866 Mhz or higher	Pentium II 400 Mhz or higher	Pentium II 350 Mhz or higher
	1000 Mhz or higher	It is difficult to purchase 400 Mhz machines. Purchase highest possible.	It is difficult to purchase 350 Mhz machines. Purchase highest possible.
Operating System	Windows 9x, 2000, or NT 4.0	Windows 9x, 2000, or NT 4.0	Windows 9x, 2000, or NT 4.0
	Windows 98, 2000, or NT 4.0	Windows 98, 2000, or NT 4.0	Windows 98, 2000, or NT 4.0
	2000, NT Server (Not NT Workstation – Limits 10 concurrent connections – Candidate Testing Stations)	2000, NT Workstation	2000, NT Workstation
Memory	128 MB RAM	64 MB RAM	48 MB RAM
	256 MB RAM	128 MB RAM	64 MB RAM
	512 MB RAM	256 MB RAM	256 MB RAM
Monitor	15 or 17 inch	15 or 17 inch	15 or 17 inch
	15 or 17 inch	15 or 17 inch	15 or 17 inch
	15 or 17 inch	15 or 17 inch	15 or 17 inch
CD-Rom Drive	24 X	Not Required	Not Required
	24 X	Not Required	Not Required
	24 X	Not Required	Not Required
Hard Drive Space (before install)	4 GB free	4 Gigabyte Drive w/ 1 Gigabyte free	1 Gigabyte Free
	2 GB free	200 MB free	200 MB free
	2 GB free	200 MB free	200 MB free
LAN Connection (Multi-station install)	100 Mbps with TCP/IP	100 Mbps with TCP/IP	10 Mbps with TCP/IP
	100 Mbps with TCP/IP	100 Mbps with TCP/IP	100 Mbps with TCP/IP
	100 Mbps with TCP/IP	100 Mbps with TCP/IP	100 Mbps with TCP/IP
Internet Connection	Via LAN or Dialup MODEM (56 K or better)	None	None
	Via LAN or Dialup MODEM (56 K or better)	None	None
	Via LAN or Dialup MODEM (56 K or better)	None	None
Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS)	30 minutes backup	15 minutes backup	15 minutes backup
	30 minutes backup	30 minutes backup	15 minutes backup
	30 minutes backup	30 minutes backup	15 minutes backup
Audio	N/A	Headphones	Headphones
	Sound Card and Headphones	Sound Card and Headphones	Sound Card and Headphones
	Sound Card and Headphones	Sound Card and Headphones	Sound Card and Headphones
Printer	Laser Jet or Inkjet	None	None
	Laser Jet or Inkjet	None	None
	Laser Jet or Inkjet	None	None

Ordering transcripts from University of Maryland

Many Service members have attended University of Maryland University College (UMUC), either stateside or overseas. Counselors and Service members who need to contact the University regarding transcripts are provided the following E-mail addresses and web sites, which were provided to DANTES by the Associate Registrar at UMUC:

UMUC web site: **http://www.umuc.edu**

Stateside E-mail address for transcripts: **opsteam@umuc.edu**

UMUC European Division web site *for transcripts*:

http://www.ed.umuc.edu/index.php?path=stud_serv,transcript,index.html

European *E-mail* address for transcripts: **transcripts@admin.ed.umuc.edu**

UMUC Asian Division web site:

http://www.ad.umuc.edu/gen/people/contacts.html

UMUC Asian Division web site *for transcripts*:

http://www.ad.umuc.edu/gen/disc/records.html#transcripts

Asian *E-mail* address for transcripts: **otranscripts@ad.umuc.ed**

For questions, please contact the Associate Registrar, Ms. Linda Limberger, at *llimberger@umuc.edu*.

Conflict management tools available

During these last few months, there has been a rise in requests for instruments that deal with conflict. After some research and review, the following paper-based conflict management tools may meet your needs.

Each instrument may be used independently or with a facilitator's guide. These instruments are comparable with most existing training programs.

Dealing with Conflict Management. This tool presents and defines five conflict handling styles, offering a significant improvement over previous

popular conflict assessments shortening time usage and producing a more user friendly result. It encourages conflicting parties to shift to a more collaborative style to find and pursue shared interests and create a win-win situation.

Conflict Style Inventory. This is a vignette-based questionnaire with five responses designed to allow the participants to indicate which response would be most like his or her own.

The results provide respondents with an accurate picture of their own natural style of dealing with conflict. This information provides a welcome jump-start for development of the skills necessary to manage conflict constructively.
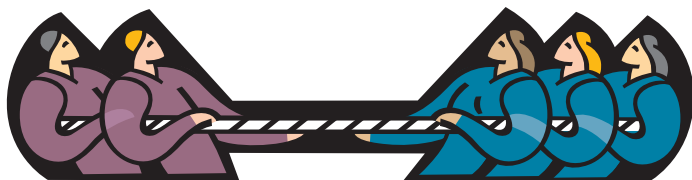
Each item has a price of $6.50. These are **not available** through DANTES. Information from HRD Press indicates that discounts are available to federal government customers. There is also an electronic version available.

If you are interested, the contact person is Ms. Debra Draper at 1-800-466-4401.

The DANTES Information Bulletin is online at http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/bulletin.

New ACE Director of Military Programs visits DANTES

by MGySgt James P. O'Keefe, DANTES Special Enlisted Advisor

MGySgt O'Keefe

DANTES recently hosted Mr. James Selbe, Director of Military Programs at ACE. In this position, Mr. Selbe oversees the Military Evaluation Programs, the Army ACE Registry Transcript Service (AARTS), the Sailor/Marine ACE Registry Transcript (SMART), and the Military Installation Voluntary Evaluation Review (MIVER).

The Military Evaluation Programs have assisted Service members in receiving transfer credit for educational experiences in the Armed Forces for more than 60 years. The AARTS and SMART transcript registry services provide colleges and universities with official documentation of a Service member's educational experiences and assists in the review of credit recommendations.

The MIVER project provides third-party assessment of on-base college and university programs of study and provides recommendations for improvement and commendations for exceptional services.

Mr. Selbe's familiarity with DANTES is rooted in his own experiences as a military student. As a Marine, he benefited from the advice and counsel of Ms. Rita Treadwell, the Marine Corps Education Services Officer (ESO) at Henderson Hall. She guided him through the selection of a program of study that met his needs and provided information on colleges and universities that recognized the value of experiential learning.

Selbe's completion of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management from National Louis University was made possible through Ms. Treadwell's evaluation of his educational experiences, the completion of CLEP, DSST, and ACT-PEP exams, and experiential portfolio assessments. Selbe was later guided and advised by Marine Corps ESO, Mr. Dennis Sherrod and Ms. Mary Wentworth, Education Counseling Supervisor, as he completed his graduate studies while stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

Mr. James Selbe

During his visit to DANTES, Mr. Selbe met with DANTES staff and received update briefs on DANTES programs and services.

Mr. Selbe announced that CNET and the SMART operations center are working with colleges and universities to launch the electronic delivery of an ACE-endorsed, web-based SMART transcript. Future initiatives include the validation of an AARTS web-based transcript, the evaluation and registry of military certification programs such as the Navy Master Training Specialist Program, and an assessment of current evaluation methods and processes.

For more information on ACE Military Programs, visit **http://www.acenet.edu/calec/military/**.

Do you have a success story? Write me at *jokeefe@voled.doded.mil*.

DANTES Services Workshop held 27-29 November 2001, an Air National Guard member stated it provided "excellent information to become an effective resource for Service members." After he returned home, he reported that he was establishing an Education Services Center at his unit as a result of all that he learned and that he was especially excited about plans to incorporate a computer-assisted guidance information system in the center.

Similar in content to the DANTES Services Workshop, Regional Workshops are held in different geographical regions to maximize the opportunity for DANTES program managers, education office personnel, and college representatives to interact and to increase knowledge about DANTES programs/services and understanding of current voluntary education initiatives.

The next Regional Workshop will take place at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, 22 and 23 May. It will be preceded by a SOC Day on 21 May. Further information about this workshop and others can be found at **http://voled.doded.mil/DANTES/TRNGMKTG/workshops.htm** or by calling Betty Keese, Training Manager or Sandi Marquis at (850) 452-1884 or DSN 922-1884.

The third type of DANTES Workshop is the Test Control Officer Workshop. It will be offered five times in 2002 in Pensacola, Florida: 12-14 February, 7-9 May, 20-22 August, 15-17 October, and 10-12 December. Rather than a broad exposure to a variety of voluntary education topics, TCO workshop attendees concentrate specifically on learning how to order, receive, safeguard, administer, and return tests (restricted to new TCO/ATCOs).

To sign-up for a TCO workshop, call Toni Streety at (850) 452-1063 or DSN 922-1063.

ACME highlights

Have you ever wondered or asked the questions, "What's going on in the area of state Advisory Councils on Military Education (ACME)," or "Which States have Councils and when do they meet?" Answers to these questions and many more will be featured monthly in this **new** column, "**ACME highlights**."

Each of the 10 ACME Presidents/Chairpersons will be providing monthly "happenings" of their state's Council. So, please take a few minutes to pause and check out these current events and keep abreast of what's happening in your geographical region.

In this first article, we are featuring the names and contact information for each state President/Chairperson. We encourage you to get "involved" in your state ACME. You don't have a State ACME? Well, think about talking to others connected with voluntary education in your State and give some thought to starting an ACME. The contacts would be happy to share their experiences.

Your DANTES POC for ACME information is Pat Landry. You may reach her via E-mail at *plandry@voled.doded.mil,* or call DSN 922-1763 or (850) 452-1763. See you next month!

Florida: Florida Advisory Council on Military Education (Florida ACME)

President: David Sutton
E-mail: dsutton@pjc.cc.fl.us
Web site: www.fla-acme.org

Maine: Advisory Council on Education of the Military and Veterans in Maine (ACEMVM)

President: 1st Sgt Robert B. Haley
E-mail:
robert.haley@me.ngb.army.mil
Web site: www.state.me.us/va/
defense/acehmpg.htm

Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Advisory Council for Military/Veterans Education (PACMVE)

Chairman: Richard (Dick) Dumaresq
E-mail: wstephens@state.pa.us

South Carolina: Council on Military Education in South Carolina (COMESC)

President: Dr. Marty S. Davis
E-mail: martydav@bellsouth.net

Texas: Council on Military Education in Texas and the South (COMETS)

President: Melody Toney
E-mail: melody.toney@littlerock.af.mil
or comets_pres@yahoo.com

Utah: Utah Advisory Council for Military Education (UACME)

Chairperson: Tracy A. Funk
E-mail: tracy.funk@phoenix.edu
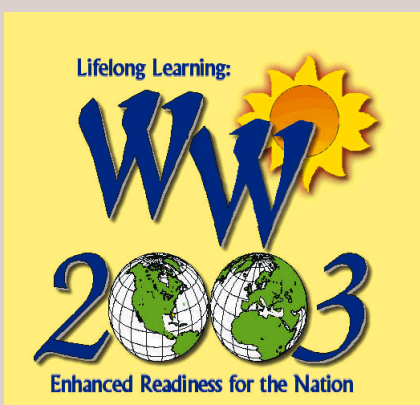Web site: http://www.uacme.org

Virginia: State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Point of Contact: Lee Andes
E-mail: Andes@schev.edu

Washington: The Association of Military Educators in Washington State (AMEWS)

President: Paul Drzewiecki
E-mail: pdrzewiecki@oc.ctc.edu

Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) (National organization)

President: Patricia L. Torbyn
E-mail: Pat.Torbyn@apollogrp.edu
Web site: www.ccmeonline.org

Lifelong Learning:
WW 2003
Enhanced Readiness for the Nation

DOD WORLDWIDE EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

7-11 July 2003

Orlando World Center Marriott Resort & Convention Center
Orlando, Florida

For Symposium information, go to

http://www.WW-003.com.

DANTES Information

Telephone and fax numbers are: DSN 922-(xxxx) or (850) 452-(xxxx).

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Enlisted Advisor	1742	1159	jokeefe@voled.doded.mil
Reserve Advisor	1760	1528	tfurches@voled.doded.mil
Web Site	1048	1096	webmaster@voled.doded.mil
European Advisor	011-49-6202-80-6008		dantes@hq.hqusareur.army.mil
Far East Advisor	011-822-7915-5581		wmcaleer@voled.doded.mil
Troops to Teachers	1320	1096	ttt@voled.doded.mil
Education Support Dept.	1732	1162	cabernat@voled.doded.mil
Military Evaluations/SOC	1732	1162	ccherry@voled.doded.mil
MIVER/WW Symposium/ACME	1732	1162	plandry@voled.doded.mil
Training	1884	1162	bkeese@voled.doded.mil
Counseling	1389	1588	vharmon@voled.doded.mil
Reference Publications	1763	1588	snyjorde@voled.doded.mil
Military Counselor Network	1763	1588	mcnet_admin@voled.doded.mil
DANTES Publications/*DIB*	1132	1158	lowens@voled.doded.mil
Education Programs Dept.	1360	1161	djones@voled.doded.mil
Examinations	1089	1160	exams@voled.doded.mil
Distance Learning	1085	1005	dstlearn@voled.doded.mil
Certification	1360	1161	winborne@voled.doded.mil
Distribution Center	1082	1140	ewalker@voled.doded.mil